

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed September 28, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 7, 10 – 12, 15 – 16 and 19 – 20 remain pending, previously-withdrawn claims 21 – 25 having been canceled without prejudice, waiver or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 21 – 25 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 7 and 10 – 12 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,658,348 (“*Rudd*”) in view of *Pland*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. In particular, Applicants submit herewith a timely filed terminal disclaimer pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c), thereby removing *Rudd* as a proper reference. Thus, the rejections should properly be withdrawn; the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The previous and present Office Actions both indicate that Claims 15, 16, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As set forth above, Claims 15, 16, 19 and 20 depend from Claim 1, the allowability of which is discussed above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

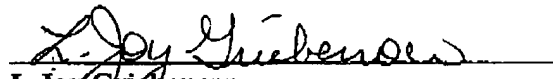
The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

It is not believed that any fees are required. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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